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Ruth Hackett

Iowa State College

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Predict Future Positions

by Ruth Hackett

HOW would you like to turn on the radio some day and hear predictions such as these: "For foods and nutrition graduates of 1951, there will be 400 requests; child development majors, 250 positions available; applied art, 87 positions open." It would certainly be a help to the home economics freshman who is trying to pick the most likely department in which to major.

But predictions in the fields of the future are hard to make. The weatherman balks at describing the weather 7 days from now—how is a counselor to know what will be happening 3 years from this quarter?

Then, you ask, how is the student going to find out what she will be facing when she graduates? There are two places to look. One is in the present and the past. Statistics of present employment openings indicate what the demand is going to be.

Another place is the daily paper. Does it look to you as if a depression will set in? Are we going to have another war? These factors will affect your future position just as much as that exam in foods today at 9 o'clock. A home economist, taking her cue from her title, is very interested in economic conditions. It will make a difference in her future.

According to the present conditions, the job situation 3 years from now looks excellent. Mrs. Mary Elva Sather, of the Home Economics Placement Office, says the trend in most fields is toward an increase in possible employment. Look at the number of requests for home economics women. Last year 243 women received their bachelor of science degree, and 32 were given their master's or doctor's degree. From that total of 275, the number of women who were available for work was only 190, yet 2,108 requests for home economists were filed in the placement office.

Fields which are requesting more and more home economists, and will continue to do so, are home service and household equipment. Remaining consistently high in requests is the foods field. The applied art student will find that the possibilities in types of positions will be increased by the time she graduates, and the child development major will be needed in three more places.

In other words, if the market remains steady, there will be plenty of positions. And there may even be an increase in some areas of home economics in spite of a depression.

HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT

Consider the household equipment field. From September 1 to March 31 this year, 85 requests have been received as compared with 60 in the same time period last year, for women trained to work with household appliances, ranges, ironers or washing

machines. And this is during a time when more homes are being established, goods are moving from manufacturer to consumer in a steady stream. The demand is greater than the supply. But in a few years competition will be keener, and the company with the trained home economist who can provide home service and skilled counsel will sell more equipment.

FOODS AND NUTRITION

When times are hard as in a depression, the demand for foods and nutrition graduates increases. Why? Because the owner of hotels and eating places know that home economics trained women can save him money. Through careful planning, skillful buying and eliminating waste, she can save enough for her own salary. During the last depression the demand for foods graduates increased. If another comes the figures are likely to be repeated.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

With the increase in the birth rate will come an increase in the requests for women trained in child development. Schools are already planning for higher enrollments. Many mothers who are used to the group nursery schools in college and war communities will demand the same services later on. These mothers have been sold on the importance of a nursery school, and therefore may indirectly cause more available positions in child development.

DIETETICS

The prediction is fairly safe for the field of dietetics. During any year the number of requests for dietitians far exceeds the supply of graduating seniors. Hospitals have to operate despite economics influences. Salaries change but the need for dietitians remains.

APPLIED ART AND TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

In the last few years several people have changed their minds. Collectively those people have changed statistics. Personnel managers of department stores and advertising agencies have decided that the college diploma is an important qualification for their new clerk or copy writer. They are looking for college trained women who are interested in merchandising as a career and who, after some experience, can be promoted to the top jobs.

This has created increased demand for students trained in art, and textiles and clothing. Although the

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